17th July 1953]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Does not arise."

Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in Malabar.

* 594 Q.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) the number of producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar district which had worked at a loss in the co-operative year ending 30th June 1952; and

(b) the total amount of interest collected or due from them from 1st July 1952 to 31st December 1952 for the stocks supplied to them under the State Trading Scheme?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (a) Seventy producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies in Malabar district worked at a loss during the co-operative year ended 30th June 1952; and

(b) Out of the 70 societies referred to in clause (a) above, eight societies were not given any foodgrains on credit under the State Trading Scheme during the peroid from 1st July 1952 to 31st December 1952, as their financial position was weak. The total amount of interest due from 23 societies on the stocks supplied to them during the period worked out to Rs. 1,11,396–1–0. In respect of the remaining 39 societies, the interest due from them till 30th September 1952 is Rs. 1,44,817–1–4 and the interest due for the quarter ending 31st December 1952 is being worked out. The total collection of interest in respect of these societies for the period ending 31st December 1952 is Rs. 73,137–2–4."

SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have called for a report from the producers-*cum*-consumers co-operative societies concerned about the reason for the loss? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I do not think we have called for it, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Out of a number of 107 societies, all of them were running at a profit before the year mentioned; but now 70 of them, a huge majority have suffered losses and the Hon. the Minister even now says that he has not called for any report as yet. May I know, Sir, why he did not do so and whether he will institute immediate enquiries regarding the cause of these losses? Will he take steps also to remedy the causes? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I will certainly give consideration to the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" The North Malabar Federation of Co-operative Societies has submitted a memorandum to the Government stating that due to the interest that they have to pay, to the loss of weight in the transport of grains, they have had to run into losses and they requested the Government to remedy the situation. They had also asked for a refund of the heavy interest that had been collected from them. May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the memorandum sympathetically? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I may tell the hon. Member that I am not aware of any such representation."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that many of these societies have suffered losses due to their having been compelled by the Supply Department to keep reserve stocks of grain for a number of months and they had to pay a large amount by way of interest to the Government on this account and that the loss has been incurred by them on account of these reasons? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" No, Sir, no such compulsion has been made by the Government. In fact, the societies were given full discretion and the option whether to run the shops or not."

Voting by show of hands in Panchayat Board Elections.

* 595 *Q.*—SRI K. VENKAIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been made to the Government against the open voting system in Panchayat Board Elections; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) After careful consideration Government have decided to adhere to their previous decision to hold elections to class II panchayats by the simple method of voting by show of hands which is least expensive and best suited for such panchayats."

SRI K. VENKAIAH :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any reports regarding murders and quarrels among the villagers during the course of the elections? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Only a few complaints were received but no murders have taken place."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that due to this system of election there had been widespread fraud and corruption among the officers and even the votes were deliberately bought by public auction and owing to these things the people are feeling that the Government have been responsible for creating dissension among the villagers? "